



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 11 March 2013

\$2 million for Prince of Wales Hospital Emergency Department

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today met with Prince of Wales Hospital staff to announce a \$2 million upgrade to their emergency department.

Mrs Skinner, who was joined at Prince of Wales by local MPs Gabrielle Upton (Vaucluse) and Bruce Notley-Smith (Coogee), said the \$2 million redevelopment of one of the state's busiest emergency departments would improve facilities for the benefit of patients and staff.

"Prince of Wales is one of Sydney's major tertiary referral hospitals with an emergency department that cares for more than 45,000 adult patients each year," Mrs Skinner said.

"This redevelopment will provide an expanded treatment area with a Fast Track Zone, which is a dedicated space to treat patients with less serious health conditions and injuries who can be discharged quickly.

"Fast Track Zones ease pressure on emergency department staff and provide additional treatment pathways so patients receive the best care in the fastest time possible.

"As part of the redevelopment, the addition of new recliner treatment chairs will allow patients to be efficiently, safely and comfortably managed during periods of high demand and activity within the emergency department."

While visiting the hospital, Mrs Skinner also announced the addition of a contemporary observation and supervision hub in the emergency department.

"Quality health care requires modern monitoring equipment and the upgrade of the central observation and supervision hub allows staff to deliver best care, in a busy environment."

Mrs Skinner said the significant funding commitment comes after many visits to the Prince of Wales emergency department where she has been impressed by the extraordinary work of staff led by the Director of the ED, Dr Michael Golding.

"Dr Golding and his fellow doctors and nurses have driven a remarkable improvement in performance at the Prince of Wales ED despite the constraints of their workplace. This investment will only further their success while also boosting staff morale."

Ms Upton said the redevelopment was an important investment to deliver better patient care in one of Sydney's busiest hospitals.

“This investment will improve emergency care for many years to come by ensuring local and visiting patients are moved in a timely and safe manner through the system.”

Mr Notley-Smith said construction was due to finish in the first half of 2014.

“Detailed planning for the emergency department’s redevelopment will commence immediately and works are set to start as soon as possible.”